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TCS#1535/57
Cy#4

7 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Project AQUATONE

SUBJECT: Statistical Resume of HPAUTOMAT Activities

1. This memorandum has been written in response to a verbal request by Mr. J. A. Cunningham Jr., Project Director of Administration, to Mr. A. G. Lundahl, Director, Project HPAUTOMAT, for a brief statistical resume concerning the current status of HPAUTOMAT activities. The information offered has been discussed with Mr. Cunningham in view of its intended use by the DGI and, therefore, the resume is not necessarily complete concerning all aspects of HPAUTOMAT activities. It is hoped that it does answer your specific requirement.

2. Major accomplishments of Project HPAUTOMAT directly evolving from the exploitation of Project AQUATONE operational products are as follows:

(1) Sur-Rice Intelligence Production

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Sixty-two detailed studies were issued in response to high-priority requirements of the intelligence community and approximately 100 substantive briefings were supported, organized, or given. Of paramount importance were the discovery and initial reports on previously unsuspected major installations near Moscow and Valday, USSR. The function of these installations is still in doubt but it appears to be ~~related to the production of nuclear weapons~~ and is currently under study by joint IAC working groups.

(2) Middle East Reporting

The international situation last Fall led to the CIA development of a system for rapid tactical and indications reporting. Two overseas facilities, now jointly manned by CIA (HPAUTOMAT), Air Force, Army, and Navy, are established to process material in a few hours to dispatch reports on coordinated National Intelligence requirements. Coordination and dissemination mechanisms and servicing of community photo intelligence requirements remain in operation in Headquarters HPAUTOMAT.

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(3) Coordination and Services of Common Concern

Scores of substantive and technical briefings were presented to IAS agencies and coordination effected in the fields of intelligence information and production, training, equipment, and research and development. Army and Navy maintain working units in HTAUTQMAT; Air Force, NSA, State, all major substantive components of CIA, [] maintain liaison. In addition to the arrangements with Army and Navy photo intelligence units dealing in special photography for an exchange of information on all photo intelligence projects under way so as to eliminate unnecessary duplication, agreements were effected by HTAUTQMAT with Army and Navy for the production of joint photographic intelligence reports, coordinated, published and disseminated by CIA under the cover seals of three participating organizations. To date 888 photo intelligence reports by CIA, Air Force, Army, and Navy have been derived from over 200,000 lineal feet of film resulting from 10 Sov-Bloc and 51 Middle East Project AQUATONE reconnaissance missions. The film is conservatively judged to triple the quality ~~of the best aerial~~ of the best aerial photography obtained during World War II. Select coverage of 201,300 square nautical miles or 2.71% of the land area of the USSR has been obtained on 70mm film, utilizing 3" focal length cameras of special design; similarly select coverage of 181,200 square nautical miles of 2.44% of the USSR has been obtained on 9" x 18" film utilizing 24" focal length cameras of special design.

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3. In conclusion it is felt that special notice should be accorded the fact that AQUATONE operations in July 1956 provided us with our first aerial photographic coverage of known nuclear energy installations in the Ussr plus previously unknown but now suspect installations of the same order. Also of vital importance was coverage of 175 known airfields plus 111 previously unknown airfields in the USSR; similarly, aerial photographic coverage of 185 known and 67 previously unknown airfields in Soviet Satellite countries has now been made available to the intelligence community.

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Executive, Project HTAUTQMAT

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f. Project HEMATOMAT is operated under the direction of the DDI for the exploitation of photography collected by the Project AQUATONE facility. Sixty-one detailed studies were produced in response to 164 high priority requirements of the intelligence community and approximately 100 substantive briefings were supported, organized, or given during the reporting period. Of significance were the discovery and first reports on previously unsuspected major installations in the USSR near Wozhaysk and Valday, the function of which is still in doubt but appears to be concerned with guided missiles, atomic energy or both.

The international situation in the Middle East caused use to be made of aerial reconnaissance for indications intelligence (see under Current Intelligence above). In order expeditiously to furnish the collected information to Washington, two overseas facilities jointly manned by the CIA, Air Force, Army and Navy were established to process the informational material and dispatch reports in a matter of hours to headquarters where lateral dissemination to the community was made.

Surveillance of the China mainland opposite Taiwan through Chinese Nationalist Air Force aerial photography has been maintained and 11 reports on military and economic developments were issued during the reporting period.

Initial exploitation of photography and ELINT tapes taken from Project AQUATONE has yielded information primarily of value to military intelligence. Progress in fields of interest to scientific intelligence which has resulted from these operations to date is summarized below. Because of limitations of the equipment and the fact that targets of primary scientific intelligence interest have not been overflowed, the potential benefits of this source to scientific intelligence have not yet been realized. With the possible reopening of operations and the extension of missions to suspected guided missile and atomic energy facilities this program should yield considerable significant information.

In the field of guided missiles, photography has revealed two possible new missile facilities in the Crimean Peninsula. Although their function has not yet been determined they may be additional missile test facilities or possibly operational missile sites. In addition to the foregoing, photography has yielded significant information concerning surface-to-air missile deployment. Fourteen previously unidentified "herringbone" complexes and one (possibly two) new missile assembly sites have been identified in the Moscow perimeter. There was no indication of "herringbone" sites around Leningrad. The greater part of the suspect areas, however, was obscured by cloud cover.

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